

# TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

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## WASTING THE PEOPLE'S MONEY

If any one inside or outside the teaching fraternity can furnish the slightest excuse for the continuation of teachers' institutes they are invited to advise with the parents and children of Nevada. This week the schools of the southern country are closed. The investment of taxpayers goes for naught. Instead of earning life and strength for the youths confided to the care of the public schools, for which the tax is onerous enough, one whole week is taken out of the middle of the scholastic year that teachers may comply with an idea that is as antiquated as the old ox team in modern life. The average institute carries with it nothing of a commendatory nature and the teachers themselves only attend for the reason that an obsolete system compels them to forego their regular avocation for the sake of gratifying a whim that conveys neither sense nor usefulness. The evils are obvious. Teachers are assessed for the expense of travel, hotel and board for the period taken from the children. The immense investment in the form of costly buildings and their appointments are idle for seven days and the pupils are turned back in their studies and weaned away from their books just long enough to develop a refractory spirit when their classes again convene.

Theoretically the teachers are supposed to drink inspiration from the experiences of some distinguished pedagogues or pundit, whose depth of learning reaches a stage of profundity that not even the trained mind can comprehend the exposition or theme of the discourse. Were this the case, there might be some element to condone the deprivation of one solid week's education for the average child, who has all too few opportunities in this fitful and fretful existence to go beyond the lower grades. But, as a matter of fact, the institute has degenerated into nothing more pungent than a flabby attempt at performing a social stunt and breaking up the school term with a convivial reunion of fellow spirits.

The state pays for the experiment, for the overhead expenses continue, and while the cat's away it is reasonable to presume that the mice will play. Pupils become alienated from the steady grind or the pleasure of study and come back to their routine in a rebellious frame of mind that is hardly compatible with modern ideas of efficiency and economy. In the present case, the choice of time shows poor judgment, since it comes so close to the Thanksgiving period that the classes are scarcely assembled before they are turned loose again for another diversion. On the heels of this break in study the Christmas holidays obtrude and it is past the opening of the new year before teachers and pupils are content to resume the tranquility of class life and begin to take up the broken thread of education.

The institute ranks with the old fashioned lecture course that formerly held sway in every town boasting of a population of a few hundred persons. The lecturer has been superseded by an all pervasive press and book lore, but the institute for some indefinable reason maintains its standing before the western world. There is no palliation of the break in school life and the course of study should be regulated in such a way that it would be relegated to the background.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Bray will ask: "All those who believe the institute is helpful to them will please stand up."

We would like to see the teachers of southern Nevada show they have backbone by refusing to rise. Mr. Bray does not employ them.

## DANGER OF DRIFTING

THE United States is called upon to pay the penalty of vacillation and trimming, trying to bridge the chasm between two horns of a dilemma without daring to step across. A review of the political position of this country given to the public recently displays the president in no pleasant light. The chickens of his evasion, deceit, treachery and sidestepping are coming home to roost and they are bringing with them a host of evils from which there is no escape. The Mexican situation is so odious that one has to hold his nose, but the European condition is infinitely worse. According to a well known authority, the United States could have secured the observance of neutral rights by a word, could have prevented submarine outrages by firmness and foresight, and could have won the respect alike of both belligerent groups and also the gratitude of a neutral group that was begging for our co-operation and our moral leadership. In the world's view today, we do not rank with countries like Sweden and Holland in the firm assertion of neutral rights. We ought to have accumulated no grievances against any of the belligerents; but, as matters stand, we have made the written record in so many unsettled questions of grave controversy that every thoughtful man must dread the reckoning. Good sense and firm action from the beginning of the war would have forced all complaints, settled issues before they had emerged into definite disagreements, and left us in a position of safety with honor. With no claims or grievances of our own to consider, we should have been morally prepared to help the war crazed and suffering world to find its way back to peace and its way forward to disarmament. Instead of this happy apotheosis, the nation is confronted today with a ring of cannon ready to turn their fire on our shores and exact reparation for a score of grievances of more or less substantial nature. President Wilson has hedged himself in with a battlement of equivocation and doubt, until today the United States stands discredited as a people, with nothing loftier or ennobling than a cash register for its coat of arms.

## EXPERT NINCOMPOOPS

IT is a sorry confession for the alleged crop experts of the United States to state in open court that they had been deceived and imposed on by the guileless granger of the west while trying to arrive at estimates of the nation's production. These experts are paid salaries commensurate with the highest skill and perspicacity, and their reports are issued under seal of the government, with the assurance that they contain facts gleaned after the closest scrutiny of the rural districts and then weighed in the judgment of the men who gathered them for tabulation. The men chosen by the government to prepare these statistics, on which millions of money

depend and the world of speculation is influenced, must have been a pretty choice lot of boobs when the unsophisticated farmer of Nebraska and Kansas and Missouri could put one over them and have it pass muster for the truth. The wily farmer, it seems, was interested in securing the highest price for his crop and therefore he represented that he had planted 25 per cent less than the previous year. With this acreage listed the result was manifest at once in a boost for all sorts of commodities originating on the farm and the man with the hoe began netting some of the fruits of experience that have commonly gone to the manipulator of prices on the Chicago board of trade.

The service of the experts was worse than nothing, for the gullible officials became dupes of the primary market supply and allowed themselves to be goldbricked as easily as the softest tenderfoot that ever ventured into the canyons of Wall street to take a flyer in the war babies.

An analogy would be found in the fact of a mine expert sent out to report on the value of a property with a prospective buyer in view and who, with simple-minded faith in the integrity of mankind, would accept the statements of the man interested in disposing of the property. No mine expert would think of committing such an egregious blunder. His first step would be to ascertain the formation and then proceed to a minute examination of the workings, which would have to be sampled, not once, but, perhaps, a thousand times, before the expert would lay the foundation for a report to his principals. Even after visiting the mine, the expert would naturally guard his samples with all diligence to the end that no one would salt them by sprinkling highgrade or substituting other specimens for the assayer. These precautions are not deemed in any way extraordinary in the mining game, and there is no reason why a crop expert of the government should not be equally scrupulous in reaching an authentic understanding of the condition of crops and the prospective harvest. It is not so long ago that the department of agriculture was accused of playing into the hands of speculators by giving out advance information of the nature of crop reports. This particular scandal was predicated on the cotton crop and it was established that the figures, supposed to be held under the closest guard by the department, had leaked out in some mysterious way and become the vehicle for huge transactions.

The Wilson administration has been accused of playing politics in every division of government and using public offices to pay off private political debts by making appointments of men wholly unfitted for the duties they were called upon to perform. This admission that alleged crop experts knew so little of acreage and crop measurements that they could blunder into a statement of magnitude affecting the feeding of the whole world proves that the entire machinery of the department needs overhauling and revamping.

## BEHIND THE ARMY ON THE FRONTIER

GERMANS HAVE IMPREGNABLE POSITIONS IN REAR TO FALL BACK ON

(By Associated Press.)

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands, Nov. 21.—According to information gleaned from several hundred refugees from the occupied regions of northern France, who have been passing through Holland, the Germans have prepared positions far behind their present front. They are, it is said, reckoning more and more on the possibility of a retreat to the Belgian frontier. The positions near Maubeuge and Hautmont are even more formidable than those north of Lille. The old forts are deserted, for, taking full account of the new methods of warfare, the Germans have constructed a network of trenches, and great earthen caverns made with the aid of reinforced concrete and iron.

News comes from northern France as well as from Belgium of the increasing number of the population who are being put to work by the Germans. The normal industries have long been stopped, but some manufacturing are veritable beehives of activity. This is the case, for instance, in the Lille suburb of Fives, where French and Belgians are employed in the manufacture of munitions.

## UNIVERSITY CLOSED

(By Associated Press.)

LONDON, Nov. 20.—The Greek government has ordered the University of Athens closed owing to student disturbances.

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## DEMAND OF WAR WEAKENS UNIONS

ORGANIZED LABOR IN AUSTRIA REDUCED NEARLY 80 PER CENT

(By Associated Press.)

VIENNA, Nov. 21.—The war has hit the trades and organized labor of Austria a blow that is almost stunning. The total membership has been reduced to 177,133 from 415,195, the figure in 1913; 30 of the 52 organizations that are banded together in the so-called "imperial commission" have less than a thousand members apiece now; and the incomes of about half of the associations have been so reduced that they were exceeded by expenditures.

The reduction in the membership of the unions not only applies to men, some 200,000 of whom have been called to the colors, but to women as well, of whom 40 per cent of the old number have left the organizations. Some trades, such as roofers and paper box makers, now have only 26 and 15 members respectively left. The big metal workers and textile trades now have only 38,000 and 29,000 members left.

## ORDERED TO GIVE UP ALL FIREARMS

(By Associated Press.)

ATHENS, Nov. 20.—Vice Admiral Fournet, commander of the Anglo-French fleet in the Mediterranean, last night presented to the Greek government a note which demanded the surrender to the entente allies of all arms, munitions and artillery of the Greek army, with the exception of some 50,000 rifles now in actual use.

In 1904, out of the total road and bridge expenditures, \$20,000,000 of the \$80,000,000 was paid in labor—that is, worked out on the roads.

should be of value as a shipping product, and will prove interesting to the management of the Boss mine, as in their new chlorination process it is found necessary to ship salt in carload lots from Los Angeles, and the saving in transportation alone would be an item of economy for them.—Goodsprings Gazette.

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